MASON'S

Coin Collectors' HERALD

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NUMISMATIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND, FROM 1066 TO 1882.

BY F. J. JEFFERY.

PART I.—1066—1504.

That bartering was the means used among the ancients in the primitive state to obtain from one man what another required without force of arms, there is no doubt; but the first invention or use of coined money is unknown. Some suggest that Tubal Cain invented coins, because he was "*an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron*;"* but this is not very probable, for we read, 2,000 years after, that "Abraham gave Ephron four hundred shekels of silver, *current money* with the merchant," for the cave of Machpelah, this money being not by *tale* (or pieces of metal bearing a recognized value throughout the country), but by weight, for Abraham *weighed* to Ephron the silver which "he had named." If I were to enter into all the arguments as to the origin of coined money, I should fill more space than this paper is intended to do; suffice it to say, some declare *Janus* or *Saturn* to have invented it; some (Greeks), *Hermodice*, wife of King *Midas*; some (Jews) say Abraham, and, in proof, produce a coin with an old man and woman, "Abraham and Sarah," on one side, and a young man, "Isaac and Rebecca," on the other; others (Latins) say *Numa Pompilius*, from whose name they say the word *numus* was derived; but Pliny tells us, l. 18, cap. 3,† King Servius first impressed the figures of sheep and oxen on the money (copper), whence *pecunia*, money, itself is derived from *pecus* (cattle); still the Greek colonists,

"O'er Asia's coast,"

are believed to have the honor of first coining money about 800 B. C.

As Rome and Greece grew powerful and wealthy, so the arts improved from rude figures impressed on pieces of metal to bold and trustworthy portraits of the Emperors, well, and, if I may use the term, beautifully executed; but with the fall of Rome falls her "all"—her arts, sciences, everything, and by the time William the Conqueror put his foot on Albion's soil, coining, like all her sister arts, had scarcely passed its lowest ebb: from a fine profile of a Cæsar on a piece of metal of substantial thickness, coining had degenerated to a thin piece of silver with a something on one side styled a portrait, but just such a one as is given in the painting of "Neglected Genius." It is my intention, in a short outline, to trace the progress of the art from this low ebb to its second flood, and show how and under what circumstances it has gradually improved and again reached to a point of perfection; following the poverty and wealth of this island during the past eight hundred years, as illustrated by her coinage.

There are three distinct sections into which the English coinage can be divided: they are—

I.—The RUDE, to 1504.

II.—The GOTHIC or TUDOR, from 1504 to 1656.

III.—The SIMONIAN, 1656 to to the present time.

I. The RUDE, to 1504.

This section I term "rude" from the fact that the portrait is so rough and rude that there was certainly no attempt by the engravers to produce a likeness, for throughout this series any one is as like its original as any other. The cross and pellets, name of mintage-town, and, on some, a Latin motto, generally fill the reverse of the silver coins; the obverse bearing the effigy of "my liege," and round the field his name and dignities.

When William I. found himself master of the field of Hastings and his opponent numbered among the dead, he did his best to induce his new subjects to believe he succeeded to the throne of England, not by conquest but by right of descent and as lawful heir of Edward the Confessor: and it is worthy of note that in Doomsday Book, his arrival is referred to by the phrase, "after King William had come," as though he had merely "come to his own without

* Gen. iv, 22.

† "Servius rex, ovum boumque effigie primus aes signavit Pecunia ipsa a pecore appellabatur."

opposition;" and only *once* does "after King William had conquered England" appear. One of his first acts was to satisfy his new subjects that the coinage would not be changed, and it was with no little pleasure they found his money passing of the same weight, fineness and denomination as that of Harold. In his laws the fines are regulated by pounds, oras, mares, shillings and pence. The shillings are sometimes expressly stated to be English shillings of fourpence each. But in Doomsday Book various other denominations of money are to be found; such as the mite, farthing, halfpenny, mare of gold and of silver, ounce of gold and marsum.‡ The penny was the only coined money that is known; the remainder being believed to be merely money by name or names of certain different weights of the respective metals, as on some of the Prussian thalers of our own day we read "XIV eine feine Mark," the mark in this instance being a particular weight of pure silver, and 1-14th mixed with its proportion of alloy is issued as one Thaler.

The following table of value is given in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*:—

THE POUND.—Was a denomination of money only, and not a coin, and signified as many coins as were made out of a pound of metal=5400 grains Troy.

THE MARK.—The same: an Anglo-Danish denomination, two-thirds of a Pound=8 oz.=3600 grains.

THE MANCUS.—The same: a weight equal to 30 pennies=6 shillings.

Y^e ORA.—The same: Danish subdivision of the mark, one-eighth, or one ounce=450 grains.

THE THRISMA.—Three Saxon pennies: not a coin.

THE SHILLING.—Five pennies=112½ grains: not a coin.

THE SCEATTLE, PENNY, HALFLING, FEATHERLING, STYCA.—Real coins.

240 pennies	= 1 pound.	5 pennies	= 1 large shilling.
160 "	= 1 mark.	4 "	= 1 lesser "
30 "	= 1 mancus.	3 "	= 1 thrisma.
20 "	= 1 ora.	20 sceattæ	= 1 shilling=5½ grs.

But William was not on the throne long, after he felt himself secure, before he violated his promises and declared that the French computation of twelve pence to one shilling should henceforth be used in England. It is very difficult to determine which coins belong to William I, and which to his son, William II; the only ones which all authorities agree to belong to William I are those with "Pax" on the reverse, or "P. A. X. S.," which are believed to have been struck to commemorate the peace between himself and his son Robert.

‡Ruding's "Annals of the Coinage of Great Britain," Vol. I., p. 117.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

U. S. DOLLARS of 1795, 1796, 1797, 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, 1802 and 1803, in good to fine condition, sent, postage free, 10 per cent less than any price list published. Mason & Co., 32 North 13th Street, Phila.

CLEANING COINS.

Sixth Paper.

BY E. MASON, JR., NUMISMATIST.

When to clean coins, and *when not to clean them*, are two problems that afflict all classes of coin collectors, as well as the non-professional coin gatherers. The general public, outside of the numismatic circle, are more interested in the first problem, from the fact that nine-tenths of this class, upon securing a few old silver or copper coins, proceed at once to scour and brighten their pieces before offering them for sale at the dealers' stores. One person will use vinegar or other acids, another person will try sand soap, and not a few will heat copper coins red hot and plunge them into cold water, while many others will use sweet oil, coal oil, etc. Now all these plans will clean coins, after a fashion that is quite unfashionable with the expert collector or dealer. Some of the cleaning recipes will not only make the coins clean, but will clean off the designs as well. Silver coins are more readily cleaned than copper, and gold coins more readily cleaned than either silver or copper. Coins should not be cleaned when possessing a good fair color, as all scrubbing and cleaning injures a coin, as far as fictitious value is concerned. A silver coin should be simply washed in hot suds (use white castile soap), rinsed off in clean hot water, and wrapped in a linen towel or handkerchief. A proof silver coin that has become tarnished, can be quickly restored with muriatic acid, if immediately rinsed in hot water and thrown in a box of boxwood sawdust. Gold coins can be cleaned in the same manner. Copper coins, when black or rusty, can be improved by a bath of crude coal oil, or by boiling them in oil. A copper coin should never be rubbed, scrubbed, scoured, or abraded in any way. If a coin is corroded there is no process known that can restore the injured parts or better its condition without depreciating its fictitious value.

In conclusion, I would caution the beginner or amateur collector in regard to cleaning coins, with the preceding exceptions. The best color for a gold or silver coin is its own beautiful mint lustre, while the most desirable color for a copper coin is a light olive, which can only be made to perfection by natural laws. No living artist can successfully imitate the color on a copper coin produced by nature, and though many attempts at bronzing copper coins and medals are made by expert bronzers to deceive the eye, never yet has there been produced the color that changes a copper coin by years of age, from bright red to a handsome light olive. Nature's bronze beats the best efforts of man's handiwork.
Home and Science Gossip.

Col. Snowden's Suggestions.

FOR A NEW COINAGE OF UNITED STATES FIVE, THREE AND ONE CENT PIECES.

"A classical head of Liberty, surrounded by the words 'United States of America,' and the date below. On the reverse I would have a wreath composed of wheat, corn and cotton—products of the country—surrounding the Roman V. III. I, on the 5, 3 and 1-cent pieces respectively. Then I would have a relative proportion in the sizes of the different pieces, with due regard to beauty and sonority. The sizes of the coins would be, for the 5-cent piece 22 millimetres in diameter: 3-cent piece, 19: and the 1-cent piece, 16 millimetres.

"This would make the 5-cent piece four millimetres smaller than the quarter-dollar, from which it would be easily distinguished, first in the day time by the color, by the device, which is absolutely different on the obverse and reverse, and at night by the plain edge, while the quarter-dollar has a 'reeded' or 'milled' edge, as it is improperly called. The 3-cent piece, which is at present exactly the size of the silver dime, would be two millimetres larger, with the same marks of difference as noted between the 5-cent piece and the quarter.

"The 1-cent piece would be exactly the size of the old silver half-dime, which was formerly so popular a coin. It would not be as cumbersome as the present bronze one, and much more beautiful and convenient to handle."

"Will it require legislation to accomplish the result you desire to reach?"

"No legislation will be required in regard to the 5-cent piece, as the weight of the present coin is what I want, and the device and diameter, can be changed under the act of 1873 by the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Secretary of the Treasury.

"The proposed change in the weight of the 3-cent piece, and the authority to coin the nickel one must be authorized by Congress. I have but little doubt that such authority will be granted.

"There is but one serious difficulty in the way, and that is the large number of the 1-cent bronze coin in circulation. These could ultimately be retired, as were the old copper and 12 per cent. nickel change for a century to come, unless some new metal was discovered better suited for the purpose."

The Bushnell Coin Sale.

Illustrated catalogues of this cabinet will be on sale as soon as issued. Apply at this office. Price is given in this issue.

History of United States Coinage.

LAWS RELATING TO COINS AND COINAGE, FROM 1792 UNTIL 1880.

BY AN OLD MERCHANT.

(Continued from December Number, 1881.)

THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1849.

This act authorized the coinage of a gold dollar of 23.22 grains pure gold and of 25.8 grains standard gold. This dollar never existed in the United States or in any other country till 1849. It did not then supersede the silver dollar of 371¼ grains pure silver created by the law of 1792.

The act of 1849 also authorized the coinage of double-eagles of twice the legal value of eagles. The double-eagle and the gold dollar were made legal tender: the one for $1 and the other for $20, when of full weight, the same as the silver dollar.

THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 26, 1853.

Under this act the first subsidiary coin of the United States was authorized.

Subsidiary coin of the United States is 90 per cent. silver and 10 per cent. copper. But this coin is 7 per cent. light weight. Two half-dollars of this coin contain 28½ grains less, under the law of 1853, than one silver dollar of 412½ grains standard silver coin. Each half-dollar contains 192 grains, which, doubled, make 384 grains.

THE ACT OF FEBRUARY 21, 1857.

This act provides that Spanish and Mexican silver quarters and eighths shall be received in the Treasury at 10 and 20 cents, and not paid out. The third section repeals all laws making foreign coins legal tender. They are treated as bullion. This law also creates a new cent, composed of 88 parts copper and 12 parts nickel. The supposed necessity for this law grew out of the law of 1853, creating lighter coins.

THE ACT OF APRIL 22, 1864.

This act authorizes the coinage of a one-cent piece, containing 48 grains, 95 parts copper and 5 parts tin and zinc. Copper, tin, and zinc are sold by avoirdupois weight. A pound of this compound contains 7,680 grains, and costs about 25 cents; 48 into 7,680 goes 160 times, which is the number of cents coined from a pound. The commercial or metallic value of the metal is 25 cents, or less. The legal or money value of the coin is $1.60.

This law also authorized the coinage of a two cent piece, containing 96 grains (copper, tin and zinc in the same proportions) and the law of 1873 has since made them legal tender for 25 cents.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD.

E. MASON, Jr., Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS: - - $1.00 Per Annum in Advance.

PHILADELPHIA, MARCH, 1882.

The Herald Just 3 Years Old.

With this issue of the HERALD we mark three years on the time table of its existence—just half as old as *Mason's Monthly Coin Collectors' Magazine*, our first venture—and, now, as we are closing the present volume in its present shape, to open anew its predecessor, *Mason's Coin Collectors' Magazine and Heral*, we may indulge—not in a little "buncombe"—about the great good we have accomplished, but rather in a little explanation of what we propose to do, if spared with health and strength, and provided with the patronage of our good friends and subscribers who have stood by us during the past three years:

First.—We propose to commence the next volume (Vol. IV, No. 1) with an additional title, viz.:

MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS'
MAGAZINE AND HERALD.

Second.—We propose changing the shape of the HERALD from a newspaper to a magazine.

Third.—We propose to accept coin dealers' and collectors' advertisements and cards—heretofore declined for want of space.

Lastly.—We propose to make our work distinctly an original numismatic publication, with free discussion of all scientific or other matters connected with the various branches of numismatic, archeological, historical and their sister sciences.

We shall endeavor to pick up all the numismatic news that can be briefly dished, and devote some attention to the wants of amateurs, or beginners, as well as catering to the desires of the advanced collector.

With our next issue we shall present a novel gift of a numismatic character to every subscriber.

Our terms to old subscribers will be $1 per annum, and $1.50 per annum to each new subscriber. Each subscriber is entitled to an advertisement of 4 lines—limited to 12 subscribers in each issue. The first twelve 4-line advertisements received with subscriptions will appear in the first number of Volume Fourth.

When a new coin priced catalogue is issued, it will be sent free to each subscriber.

Growing.

This number of the HERALD is increased in size, with a view of accomodating our patrons in the way of advertisements and other matter, heretofore crowded out. Hereafter we shall devote considerable space to the important coin sales by auction, adding the prices obtained for the principal rarities.

Herald Clubs for 1882 and 1883.

10 subscribers to Vol. IV, received at one time, will be taken at 75c. each, 20 at 50c. each, 100 at 25c. each. Every subscriber is entitled to all supplements and catalogues we issue, and a handsome gift, to be announced in our next issue; also entitled to a 4-line advertisement or card.

Lancaster Coin Sale.

A very interesting sale of coins, medals, books, Indian stone relics, autographs, and curiosities, came off in Lancaster, this State, on December 22, 1881. Having succeeded in obtaining a respite from the sick room of his long suffering wife, the editor visited Lancaster and attended the above sale. Among those present were Massamore, from Baltimore; Miller, from Reading; Gayland, from Rawlingsville; Dietrich, from Harrisburg; Mason & Co., from Philadelphia; and a few Lancaster citizens, who served to make the occasion more than usually interesting by their spirited bidding and social companionship.

Exit Brown.

We regret to learn that our old and valued friend and numismatic co-laborer, William P. Brown, was a victim to the ravages of the recent terrible fire at Park Row, Beekman and Nassau streets, New York, where a number of lives were lost. Mr. Brown, who has been for many years a coin and stamp dealer, occupied a room on the fourth floor, (Beekman street side) in the unfortunate building, and lost nearly all his stock in trade.

The following letter was received from our friend in reply to an inquiry concerning his escape from the fire, &c.:

NEW YORK, Feb. 8, 1882.

Mr. Mason:—What few coins and stamps were left in the safe will be sold at auction shortly by Scott & Co. I have gone into the short hand business. W. P. BROWN.

We think our friend Brown *short sighted* to leave the philatelic and numismatic ranks, which are *short handed* now; but if he will go, good bye, and may Heaven's blessings accompany him.

Æsthetic Decoration.

BY VANDYKE BROWN.

When I asked of Angelina—
She than whom there's none diviner—
"Can you decorate old china
In the true æsthetic style?"
Straightway did she make me answer,
"You can bet your boots I can, sir:
Bet the limit of your pile!

"Yes, sir, when to decorate it
I set out, a dinner plate it
Would be difficult to mate it,
For that's just within my line;
And I tell you if you'd seen it
(Which the same I really mean it),
You'd declare it quite divine!"

"Tell me by what incantation
You perform this decoration
Which so interests the nation—
Tell me, Angelina, pray?
Leave me not to wild conjectures,
Nor to Wilde's still wilder lectures,
But explain the simple way!"

"Well, then," answered Angelina,
"When I decorate old china,
First I take the plate and line 'er
With roast beef that's choice and rare:
Then, in keeping with old Plato,
To the plate I add potato,
Which I gravy-ly prepare!

"Then, to make the soft heart flutter,
Unto each I add some butter—
Just how much it were too utter
Utterly to give away;
But, as classic Greece was small, so
Is the grease that I use also—
Which is all I need to say!

"Last, to make it more æsthetic,
Not to say more dietetic,
Sometimes do I add poetic
Turnips or tomatoes—canned;
That's my way," said Angelina,
"For to decorate old china
In this wild, æsthetic land!"

The Brechemin Cabinet.

This collection of Coins, Medals, etc., passed into the hands of Mason & Co., March 3rd, after a lively competition with Chapman Bros. and other dealers. "The longest pole brings down the persimmons," especially if the pole rests on a foundation of true and solid friendship. What will Tom, Dick and Harry say after having used their best efforts to prejudice the Mr. B., the owner, against their brother dealers? Fairness is the best policy. Our customers can now get almost any rare American coin wanted.

Bushnell Coin Sale Catalogues.

The owners of the celebrated Bushnell Cabinet of rare and fine American Coins, etc., have decided to charge the following prices, viz:

Unpriced Catalogues, each, - -	50 cents.
Same with Plates, - - - -	$5.00

Buyers at this sale can only secure catalogues by paying 50 cents.

It is important that we receive early notice from patrons wishing a copy of this book, which will probably be the most interesting one, if not the largest, in quantity and quality of pieces of any previous coin sale catalogue. Catalogues ready in April.

Meeting of Numismatic Society of Phila.

A stated meeting of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of this city was held last evening at its hall, President Price in the chair, and a good attendance of members being present. Among the donations were various coins and medals, one of which was a copy of an early Gnostic amulet bearing on the obverse the helmeted head of a mailed warrior, from whose temple curled a horn; on the collar of his dress was the Hebrew word *Moshe* (Moses); on the reverse was in Hebrew the beginning of the first of the Ten Commandments, arranged in four lines, the letters in the last lines being separated without regarding the words of which they formed part. The reverse reads:—"Lo yiyeh lekha alohim ngal panai." "There shall be no other God before me."

Mr. Henry Phillips, Jr., read a paper entitled the "Lying of the Stars," exhibiting some amusing phases of astrological superstition.

Messrs. Henry Phillips, Jr., Robert C. Davis, and Charles Henry Hart were appointed a committee to report on the proper manner of celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the foundation of the society.

The "Old Guard" Medal.

The medal to be struck in bronze and presented to each of the delegates who stood by Gen. Grant "first, last, and all the time," at the Presidential nominating convention in Chicago, June, 1880, is to have on obverse a bust of Gen. Grant, surrounded by a laurel wreath, circumscribing which will appear the 36 ballotings had for Grant for President. Reverse will present the name of a delegate and an inscription commemorating the exciting event.

Numismatic Notes.

BY E. MASON, JR., NUMISMATIST, 32 NORTH 13TH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.

Fifth Paper.

Many enquiries are made to the press concerning the dates when coins were not issued by the U. S. Mint. Thinking a brief article might be acceptable to the Numismatic reader, having reference to this subject, we subjoin the years when silver and copper coins were issued and not issued.

U. S. SILVER DOLLARS.

These coins were first issued in 1794 and but few were struck; hence all of this date are very valuable. Then came successively 1795-96-97-98-99, 1800-1-2-3-4—the latter of excessive rarity and value. From the year 1805 to 1835 inclusive, there were no issues of the silver dollars. In 1836 came the "Flying Eagle" or "Pattern Dollar," a few of which were circulated. From 1837 to 1839 inclusive, there were no regular issues of the dollars, but pattern dollars of 1838 and 1839 were struck—both extremely rare and valuable. From 1840 to 1881 there has been a continuous series of dollars in silver, the rarest of which are 1851, 1852, 1858.

U. S. HALF DOLLARS.

These pieces were first issued in 1794, and were continued in an unbroken series with the exception of 1798, 1799 and 1816, until 1881. Of these coins the rarest are 1796, 1797, 1801, 1802, 1804, 1815, 1836, 1838, (reeded edge) (Orleans mint) 1852 and 1853 no arrows at date.

U. S. QUARTER DOLLARS.

The first quarter dollar was issued 1796, and a break occurs from this date to 1804, when the issue was resumed until 1807, and including which year up to and including 1814, no issues of quarters occurred. Commencing 1815, a limited number of quarters were coined, none in 1816 and 1817; commencing again to coin in 1818, including which year to 1825 inclusive, quarters were regularly issued; the 1823, however, in small numbers, making this date one of the most valuable of the series. 1826 was skipped, there being no coinage of quarters that year; then came a few 1827's; (many writers claim that 1827 quarters were only struck as proofs, and were issued at a much later period than 1827; besides a number of re-strikes that were serreptitiously coined about 1858-9, the next quarter appeared 1828, none in 1829 or 1830. From and including 1831 an unbroken series appears to 1881, the latter being proofs, as up to the present month there has been no regular coinage of halves, quarters or dimes for 1879, 1880 and 1881.

U. S. DIMES.

The dimes were inaugurated 1796, and continued 1797-98—none coined in 1799. In 1800 a few dimes were coined; also in 1801-2-3-4-5; none in 1806; but again coined 1807; none in 1808; again appeared 1809; none in 1810; again struck 1811—from this date to 1813, inclusive, none coined. The next coinage was 1814; none coined 1815 to 1819, both inclusive. Again coined 1820, from which date to 1881, there is an unbroken series.

U. S. HALF DIMES.

A pattern half dime appeared in 1792, but the regular coinage commenced in 1794, and continued to 1797, inclusive; none coined in 1798 and 1799. In 1800 these pieces appeared again; a few in 1802, and up to and including 1803; none in 1804; coined in 1805, from which date to 1828, inclusive, none were coined. In 1829 the half dimes appeared again, and continued each year to 1881.

SILVER 3-CENT PIECES.

A pattern three-cent piece appeared in 1850, but the regular coinage commenced 1851, and continued each year to 1873, inclusive when these pieces were discontinued.

U. S. COPPER CENTS.

First coined 1793, and continued each year, excepting 1815 to 1857, inclusive, when the copper cents were discontinued.

U. S. HALF CENTS.

Commenced 1793, continued until 1897, inclusive: skipped 1798-99, appeared again 1800, skipped 1801, coined 1802 to 1811, both inclusive; not coined in 1812 to 1814, both inclusive; appeared again 1825-26; not coined 1827; coined 1828-29; not coined in 1830; few patterns 1831, regular coinage 1832 to 1835, both inclusive; few patterns 1836, not coined 1837-38-39; appeared again 1840 as patterns, and the latter were confined to collectors as well as the following year 1841 to 1849, (small date,) both inclusive; appeared again 1850 and continued to 1857, inclusive; there being one pattern of which a few were issued 1852.—[OUR HOME.

To be Continued.

The "History of the U. S. and Colonial Coins in the Cabinet of the U. S. Mint," in this city, will be continued in our next issue, to be followed by a "History of the U. S. Pattern and Experimental Pieces," "Mint Medals," &c., &c.

The C. S. A. Half Dollar.

The original and only known specimen of the Confederate silver half dollar, 1861, is announced for sale by auction in New York on the 8th inst.

This piece, which we obtained from New Orleans and sold to a dealer in New York, has excited more comment throughout the country than any American coin, save and except the 1804 U. S. Dollar. Southern people generally cannot and will not believe that the Confederate States issued any coin during the rebellion; but there is no doubt, cavil or question of the genuineness of the above coin, and all persons anxious to know the exact facts can examine the Confederate Archives in possession of the War Department at Washington and find full corroboration of the originality of the C. S. A. coin, and by reference to the "Acts and Resolutions" of the C. S. A. Government at Montgomery in February and March, 1861, can read the order for designs of a Confederate half dollar in printed form, and by calling on us can see the affidavits of the engraver, designer, chief coiner, and those present in the N. O. Mint, when the coin was struck. We believe this unique piece will readily fetch one thousand dollars.

New Coin Publication.

We are now engaged on a new and complete illustrated coin book, containing some 800 pages and several hundred representative cuts of modern foreign and American gold, silver and copper coins: also, ancient Greek and Roman coinage, fully illustrated. The work will embrace descriptions from some of the ablest numismatic writers of the age, and has been for a number of years in preparation. As soon as we finish the American portion of the work the book will be issued, a portion of it being now in press. This work will be a complete history of the coinage of the world, and contain illustrations of the various national mints, etc., and is to be sold only by subscription under the control of one of the largest publishing houses in the United States.

Further particulars in our next issue.

A Word to the Wise.

Now that the coinage committee of Congress has recommended the dropping from our national coinage of the *three and one dollar* gold pieces and the *trade dollar*, it behooves our sharp-sighted numismatists to "see to it" that they are not "left" in the struggle for complete series of these coins. We keep these coins on sale at a trifle advance for the gold and double face for uncirculated "trades."

Coin Sales.

The multiplicity of auction coin sales, past, present and in the near future, renders it almost impossible for any numismatic journal to report them in full. We shall from time to time notice the interesting features of the more important sales, and mark, in future, the notable changes in the fictitious values of the coins, etc. During the year 1881 there was an average of one auction coin sale per week in the United States, chiefly confined to Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Maryland.

Garfield Memorial Medals.

We have a set of gold and silver Garfield United States Mint Medals. Price, per set of four pieces, (two gold, two silver) $14.00. These are the same as advertised in another column.

South American Postage Stamps.

10 centavo, unpaid letter, (unused,) Peru, 10 cents.
6 varieties of South American, (used,) Peru, 25 cents.
100 S. American, used, (6 varieties,) Peru, - $2.50

C. EDWARD MASON,
32 North 13th Street, Philadelphia.

N. B.—Packets of South American, 10 to 50 cents each; all different.

Complete Set of Herald.

Bound volumes—three in one—of the first, second and third volumes of Coin Collectors' Herald (in newspaper form) for sale at $4. Address this office.

Fire and Removal.

Munn & Co., publishers of that sterling old paper, the *Scientific American*, having been scorched out by the great fire at Nassau and Beekman streets, New York, are now handsomely located at 261 Broadway.

U. S. Currency Shield, containing clean and new notes, with the two 15-cent Grant and Sherman, red and green backs, all the red backs, the autographic signatures, etc., will be sent by express for $15. Address, Mason & Co., 32 North 13th Street, Phila.

Collectors and dealers sending a list of dates of coins wanted, will receive rubbings and prices at 15 per cent. below other printed price lists. Coins C. O. D., with privilege of examination before paying.

MASON & CO.,
32 North 13th Street, Phila.

CORRESPONDENTS' DEPARTMENT.

Mary Washington's Skill.

The following letter from a lady who does not wish her address published, calls up the past and reminds us of the difference between the present and past generations of women.

Think of the mother of Washington sitting at her spinning wheel, converting flax into thread nearly two hundred years ago! The mothers of many of our distinguished sons at the present day, are likely to be engaged in spending money for laces and diamonds instead of producing useful goods by their own labor.

Any of our readers wishing to purchase the Mary Washington skein of linen thread, (made by her own hands,) fully corroborated, can be placed in correspondence with the lady by sending their communication to this office.—EDITOR.

Messrs. MASON & Co.:

Seeing a notice in the *Weekly Times*, in "notes and queries," recommending a person to apply to you about selling some old coins, I thought I would inquire about some things I have to sell. One is a skein of fine flax sewing thread, spun by General Washington's mother, and given by her to a grandmother of mine five generations back. It has always been kept with great care.

Specimens were shown of the coinage issued by Belgium commemorating the semi-centennial anniversary of the independence of that kingdom, 1880. It bears on the obverse the occolated heads of Leopold I and Leopold II, the first monarch and the reigning monarch, and is a piece of historic interest. Also some notes issued by the celebrated bank of John Law, in Paris, in the early part of the last century; an invitation to Benjamin Franklin while in Paris, in 1778, to meet a Masonic lodge and sup with it: a notice from the King of France to Franklin as Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States, that no levee would be held on a certain day; and an engraving by James Peller Malcom, and early Philadelphia engraver. Also, a series of coins issued by the Empress Maria Theresa, showing her as a young girl, as a woman, and in old age: also, one of her consort Joseph.

Among the donations to the society were the reprint of the very rare translations by Barclay of *The Ship of Fools* of Sebastian Brandt, as originally published by Richard Pynson; *The History of the Cross*, a block book reprint of 1483; the costumes of Russia, with several hundred colored plates: a complete set of the publications of the Western Reserve Historical Society, and various coins.

A letter was read from Professor Butler asking information as to the purchasing power of money tempore Raphael as compared with the present day; the the weight of the ducat in 1520, how much gold, how much silver; if the grain was a weight which did not vary; if the Italian scudo of that era was silver or gold, and what its value was; the weight and value of the gold florin in Raphael's day.

The communication, after discussion, was referred to the Committee on Numismatics.

Professor Butler presented to the society a photograph of a silver medal, weighing 7.76 grains, diameter 140 by the scale of the society, usually known as the American scale, which was found in a mound near Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi. The legend is obliterated, but the head on the obverse is similar to that on the coinage of Carolus III and Carolus IV, of Spain. On the reverse is a cactus wreath surrounding a partly-obliterated inscription, of which the last word seems to be "Merito."

A photograph was exhibited of a cameo representing the triumphal procession of Constantine II, in honor of his victory over Magnentius at Mursa, A. D. 351. The Emperor is represented in a quadriga holding in his right hand a scrolll and pointing to the labarum. It is an agate-onyx, remarkable both for its unusual size (six inches by four inches) and the beauty of its workmanship. It is now in the cabinet of Herr Bichler, of Baden bei Wien.

A large bronze medal was presented, struck in 1864 in honor of the gallant services of General Henry M. Naglee. On the obverse is a figure of the General leading on his men to the attack of a fortification: inscription, "Fair Oaks;" exergue, 31 May, 1862. Reverse "To General H. M. Naglee, a token of admiration and respect for his gallant services" Surrounding the inscription are the words "The Peninsula, Chickahominy, the Carolinas."

Fortune in Fossils.

"About the time when the last ape was modified into the first man" is the way which Professor E. D. Cope puts it when referring to the period which believers in biblical revelation are accustomed to refer to as the creation of the world. Although Professor Cope has gained an international reputation by his geological researches, the extent and cost of the work to which he is devoting his life are but little known. During the last ten years he has expended between $100,000 and $125,000 in the pursuit of paleontology, or the study of ancient live things, and his outlay for the next decade, should the grim reaper have passed him by for that length of time, will probably show a large increase over that amount.

Reviews.

Scott & Co.'s *C. C. Journal* for February, has been received. The publishers announce an advanced price upon subscriptions for the present year, viz: $2 per annum, former price $1. The present number is well illustrated, and the mathematical history of the U. S. cents and half cents has reached the year 1828. In a few years more we expect the enterprising publishers will be able to conclude the intricate descriptions of the extraordinary variations in our old copper coins. Several new features in the *Journal* are to be commended, viz: the publication of the number of coin sales in New York annually, with pecuniary results and names of owners; also the history of the Trade Tokens of the U. S., the numerous numismatic illustrations, etc.

American Journal of Numismatics for January is at hand, and, like the preceding numbers of this valuable aid to science, is full of interest. The copper coins first issued in Mexico, are illustrated in this number. "Canadian Numismatics" are continued, and coin sales are reported to a considerable extent. The *Journal* always looks and reads well, and reflects credit upon the Society publishing it.

Home and Science Gossip for February is at hand with its usual supply of numismatic matter. We regret to see the long erratic article concerning American coins, in this number. Some one has imposed on the publishers, and rehashed the New York *Sun's* "Interview Article," which pretended to give a description and valuation of the rare coins of this country. The article is crammed with errors and false information, notably the "C. S. A. Silver Dollar," a piece that never had an existence. We hope Bro. Andrus will scan his numismatic contributions, and avoid such erratic matter in future.

The Coin Journal for the combined months of January, February and March, arrived just as the HERALD was going to press, and in time for a review of its 16 pages. "Our Charles" has vindicated the assertion in the last HERALD, that he was bound to rise and show what stuff he was made of, by issuing an enlarged *heavy-weighted* paper, with a little extra-copied matter, more sale advertisements, and longer lists of catalogued coin sales. Besides this enterprise, there seems to be *new editors* at work on this issue. It is in vain to learn by *The Coin Journal* who is its principal editor, as the only names found in its columns are "We," "Us" and "Our," iterated and reiterated, and the final conclusion arrived at by the reader, is that "We, Us & Co." are the editors, publishers and proprietors. There must be more than one editor, as the plural pronouns are used and abused alarmingly. In an elaborate collated article on early paper money, we find interjected the following original paragraph, viz: "*Having became* started in this line *ourselves.*" Now, all that know "Stigey" know that he is incapable of such composition, and as the editorial pronoun "ourself" is omitted and "ourselves" substituted, one can but infer that two or more editors concocted that peculiar paragraph. Stigey ought to discharge his editors and compilers, and by this means have less of the egotistical *we*, *our*, *us*, &c. If a sample of avoidance of the *we*, *us* and *our* style is required, let him examine this review, and observe how easy it is to write and sink personality. It will be noticed that the current issue of the *Coin Journal* is without a number. Correct this omission, Charles, or your subscribers will get an extra paper. Five and a half pages of price-lists and advertisements, three and a half pages of coin sale priced catalogues, five pages of copied matter, put together make fourteen pages of this issue, the other two pages being made up of items original and partly otherwise, by the editors yclept "ourselves." Jesting aside, "Stigey" is making an effort to compete with his cotemporaries, and "having became started" look out for the whistle when the steam blows! Thanks of the HERALD staff to publishers of the *Coin Journal* for "good wishes" and kindly notices, which are hereby reciprocated! One thing we can say truly, the present number of Steigerwalt's paper is a vast improvement over previous issues, and will win him additional subscribers.

Rare Washington Masonic Medal.

We recently picked up an excessively rare and perhaps in some respects *unique* Washington Masonic Medal, in dark colored brass, and now offer it for sale at $30 Obverse, military bust of Washington, (much like the 1792 half-dollar,) legend "WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT," date 1797. Reverse, in centre various Masonic emblems, surmounted by the letter "G". Legend, "AMOR HONOR ET JUSTITIA."—"G. W. G. G. M."—Engrailed periphery, or edge. Condition very good, size 22. We have seen a similar medal in the R. C. Davis Cabinet, but with plain edge. Any information collectors can furnish in reference to the history of these pieces, will be cheerfully published.

Curious 1815 Quarter-Dollar.

We recently purchased an 1815 U. S. quarter-dollar in bright, uncirculated condition, having a small "L" on field near top of obverse, apparently from the die, though incused. Can our readers throw any light on the "L" question?

Public Coin Sales in 1882.

The present year bids fair to excel all previous years in the number of "Auction Coin Sales," if rarity and value are considered. Already some important sales have occurred in New York, Boston and Baltimore, while the more valuable, and vastly more interesting public coin sales are in embryo, and will hasten upon the numismatic world with startling force, resulting in either depreciating the extraordinary fictitious value of certain rare American coins and medals, or adding largely to present prices. There will be no half-way business in the coming avalanche of rare and valuable pieces—*down goes your house, or up goes your castle!* In addition to Baltimore, Lancaster, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston coin sales, now in the hands of dealers, (some of which will be offered before the present issue of the HERALD reaches its readers) we are to have the large and valuable Bushnell cabinet. Here is a coin sensation—*uniques* in abundance, strange as it sounds—and when the rarities of this collection are offered, may we be there to see. At least ten thousand dollars' worth of coins in this cabinet, and then think of the rare medals, rare numismatic books, &c., collected by the late Charles I. Bushnell, of New York. Next we have the Shannon collection of war badges, orders, crosses, etc., etc.—a Philadelphia collector's contribution to swell the number of valuable sales by public auction. This collection is choice and will create a sensation in a new field of science and art, if we may use the term in this connection. Next we have the Illinois cabinet, known as the Bradbury collection, while the Ralston cabinet will probably follow. Other large collections are soon to be offered, including the Brechemin, and perhaps the Rohrer cabinets, both of which have been offered at private sale. It would not be unlikely for the Eby and the Riddle collections to swell the auction sale lists of coins for 1882. "Stand from under."

Attinelli's "Numisgraphics."

As a second edition of the above work, containing additions and corrections to 1882, is suggested by Frossard's *Numisma*, and may be issued, we suggest that Attinelli will have an opportunity in the new edition to give Mason & Co. the proper credit, as being the first coin dealers in the U. S. to issue a priced coin catalogue. R. C. Davis, of this city, has in his possession, and has recently exhibited to us, this coin priced catalogue of 4 pages, issued by Mason & Co., from No. 451 North Second street, Philadelphia, in 1860.

New Subscribers for Vol. III.

E. B. WIGHT,	JAMES HENRY,
W. E. BAITZELL,	ED. KNOSTMAN,
N. S. DAHL,	W. E. CANTNER,
T. F. NEALIS,	L. CHRISTOPHER.

Baltimore N. and A. Society.

We are pleased to note the continued prosperity of the Baltimore Numismatic and Antiquarian Society, organized in 1880. Before us lays a little book of the Constitution and By-Laws of this Society, and in it a list of twenty-one officers and members. "Great oaks from little acorns grow," is a trite motto, and we confidently look forward to an increased membership of this young but thriving organization. We return our thanks to Chapman Maupin, Secretary, for the little book of laws and regulations.

Replies to Correspondents.

P. S., BOSTON.—Ralston Coin Sale, sometime in May or June.

BATTY, MANCHESTER.—Illness in family prevented us from visiting England last summer. Will see you next year if possible.

P. C. MELBOURNE, LONDON.—We have lost your address, and sent letter directed London. If you received it answer and send address.

J. N., JR., DAYTON.—You must deduct twenty to twenty-five per cent. from prices obtained by auction. For instance, a 1796 half-dollar at $100.00, would net about $75.00.

L. M., CINCINNATI.—Examine the next number of our improved journal before making up your mind to subscribe. All present subscribers and patrons get the new volume for $1.00 per annum, with all the etceteras.

P. Q. AND OTHERS.—Sales by auction are pouring in like an avalanche, and some collectors must open their purse strings and pour out the dollars, or some other collectors, speculators and dealers will be "in a hole" of large pecuniary demensions.

R. S. P., BOSTON.—There are some "terrible blunders in modern coin sale catalogues," as you say, and this is owing to the inexperience of those who in time will hold the honors, with the best cataloguers. We cannot follow the sales and publish the inaccuracies, as their frequent occurrence would fill all the pages of all the coin periodicals published

R. STITH, RICHMOND.—The coin you send impression of is called an American Colonial coin, issued in Great Britain for Virginia, 1773. Are you any relation to Stith, the historian? In his History of Virginia there is a story about George III coining the Virginia pieces, to remind his "Old Dominion" of its ancient fidelity, in order to keep Virginia loyal during the anticipated war with America.

L. A., CHICAGO.—The catalogue is out of the Sampson Sale of Rare Coins. You are not right in reference to this collection being owned in Boston, and manipulated by a New York dealer to head off the Bushnell sale, or to raise means to engulf the "uniques" in the latter sale. It is Britton's New York collection. We notice that the originator of the terms for the different 1794 cents is entirely ignored in the Sampson Catalogue, yet the same are used rather cooly for a "correct" numismatic cataloguer.

Canadian Coin Catalogue.

We have received, and have for sale at 25 cents, the recently issued *Complete Canadian Copper Coin Catalogue*, published by Joseph Le Roux, M. D., of Canada. This book contains an appendix of values, and is a handy guide for those collecting the coins of Canada.

New Coinage.

The Haytian Government has issued a decree declaring that, as confusion reigns in the monetary system of the republic and unity of coinage is required, therefore it is ordered that national coin be created of pieces containing 9 parts of gold and 1 of alloy, which coin shall be called a *Gourde*, and each *Gourde* shall contain 100 centimes.

Numismatic Visitors.

It pleases us to see patrons and friends from distant States. During the month of January we had the pleasure of welcoming two of our subscribers to the Quaker city, viz:—A. W. Jackman, from New Hampshire, and W. H. Harris, from Kansas, both noble specimens of manhood and scientific numismaticians, and both possessing excellent collections of our country's coinage. "Come and see us," is our motto to all collectors passing through this city.

SPLENDID ELECTROTYPES FOR SALE.

A few copies of the finest known original U. S. copper cents and half-cents, and other pieces have been recently secured. We will send, *postage free*, the following, viz.:

1793, 1799, 1804, 1809 cents	$0.25
1793, 1796 half-cents	25
1802, 1831 and 1836 half-cents	25
1840, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 half-cents	25
1849 small date half-cents	25
1852 half-cent	25
1795 cent, (Jefferson head) from Mason's original, now owned by a Massachusetts collector,	50
Washington cent, 1791	25
" " 1792	25
" " 1792 (variety)	25
Washington cent, (naked bust,) 1792	35
Carolina Elephant Piece, 1694	35
Kentucky cents	25
Massachusetts half-cents, 1787 and 1788	25
Immunis Columbia, 1787	25
Oliver Cromwell, crown (copy) silvered	50
Henry VIII, shilling, copy very fine, silvered	50

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OLD DOLLARS FOR SALE.

1795 dollar, good,	$1.75
1796 " "	2.25
1797 " "	2.75
1798 " "	1.35
1799 " "	1.30
1800 " "	1.45
1801 " "	2.75
1802 " "	1.75
1803 " "	1.75

Also, old halves, quarters, dimes and half dimes for sale.

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Satisfaction Guaranteed in all Cases.

Owing to the unprecedented demand of these Glasses throughout Europe, I have been unable until now to introduce them in this country, and with improved and increased facilities, I am now prepared to supply the demand in the United States and Canada.

Why they are called Electro.

The old style of Glasses are produced by heat generated with coal, creating dense volumes of smoke which tends to soften the enamel, thus producing a glass that is easily blurred and very trying to the eye.

THE ELECTRO-MEDICATED GLASSES are produced by heat generated by ELECTRICITY, thus doing away with the softening influence of coal smoke, and it is impossible to dim them by ordinary wear.

Why they are called Medicated.

The MEDICATED properties contained in the glass make it hard as a diamond. It will retain its polish and never become dull or dim, hence you will always see through them as bright and as clear as at first.

☞Send for illustrated circular with endorsements and prices.

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1881 Halves, Quarters and Dimes.

The U. S. Subsidiary Silver Coinage for the years 1879, 1880 and 1881 was limited in amount, and there being no general circulation of these pieces for the past three years a scarity prevails, and many collectors having neglected our advice to secure them before the close of each year, can now obtain them from us in uncirculated condition, at the following rates:—

1879 Halves, $1.00; Quarters, 35 cts.; Dimes, 20 cts.
1880 " 1.00; " 35 cts.; " 15 cts.
1881 " 1.00; " 35 cts.; " 15 cts.

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October 1st, 1881.

In answer to numerous inquiries, from persons desiring to obtain copies of the GARFIELD MEMORIAL MEDALS, notice is hereby given, that I have had prepared two sizes of these medals struck in fine gold and silver, at the following prices:

LARGE GOLD,	(1 inch in diameter,)	$9.00
LARGE SILVER,	" "	60
SMALL GOLD,	(23-32 inch in diameter,)	4.50
SMALL SILVER,	" "	25

These medals bear the heads of Presidents Lincoln and Garfield, from original models.

Orders for these medals will be received and filled as rapidly as the general work of the Mint will permit.

A. LOUDON SNOWDEN,
SUPERINTENDENT.

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